

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method to facilitate a programming of a control device that comprises a graphics user interface, the method comprising:

5 enabling a determination of at least one appliance for being user-controlled through the control device;

determining code for graphically representing a controllable feature of the appliance on the graphic user interface of the control device; and

10 communicating the code to the control device for storage at the control device for enabling user-control of the appliance in response to a subsequent user activation of the control device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the code includes accessing an Internet site in dependence upon the determination of the at least one appliance.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the code includes extracting a device control profile from a plurality of device control profiles.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the code includes extracting a device control profile in dependence upon at least one of: a location parameter, a time parameter, a user profile, and an appliance inventory.

5. The method of claim 1, further including:

25 communicating appliance control commands to the control device to facilitate the user-control of the appliance.

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Category	Item	Value
A. Total	1. Total	100.00
	2. Total	100.00
	3. Total	100.00
	4. Total	100.00
B. Total	1. Total	100.00
	2. Total	100.00
	3. Total	100.00
	4. Total	100.00

8. A software program that is contained in a computer readable medium for execution on a computer, the software program comprising:

a means for communicating to a control device,

a means for communicating to an Internet site,

a means for identifying a selected GUI code via the Internet site, and

a downloader that receives the selected GUI code from the Internet site via the means for communicating to the Internet site and communicates the selected GUI code to the control device via the means for communicating to the control device for storage at the control device.

9. The software program of claim 8, further including:

a means for modifying the selected GUI code.

10. The software program of claim 8, wherein the means for identifying a selected GUI code includes an identification of a selected appliance.

11. A control device comprising:

a programmable user interface, and

a receiver that receives user interface code from an Internet site,

wherein a programming of the programmable user interface is facilitated by the user interface code.

12. The control device of claim 11, further including an Internet access device.

13. A software object that is contained in a computer readable medium at an Internet site for execution on a control device, the software object comprising a code for generating a graphic user interface on the control device when downloaded to the control device, wherein the graphic user interface facilitates the control of an appliance.

14. The software program of claim 13, wherein the graphic user interface is designed for at least one of: a remote control device, a telephone, and a household appliance.

15. A method of enabling a user to personalize control of an appliance, the method comprising:
enabling the user to contact a server via a communications network,
enabling the user to specify via the server a preference with regard to a control of the appliance,
enabling the server to provide a graphic user interface for a control device for the appliance based on the preference.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein
the server is enabled to provide the graphic user interface via the communications network.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the communications network is the Internet.